

# THE BANNER

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T. C. JONES - - - - - EDITOR

ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION

Chipley, Fla. June 19th 1907.

Grasshoppers are causing a great deal of trouble on the farms in Washington state, which they have attacked in great swarms.

Ax exchange says that a DeSoto doctor, who was looking for a crazy patient whom he was to lock up in an insane asylum, found the lunatic serving on a jury in the circuit court.

The country will be thankful to the Senate if it will vote on the tariff bill on June 20th, the date now indicated. By that time everybody will have been more than satisfied with tariff talk.

For the first time in the history of tariff legislation a duty on raw cotton is incorporated in a tariff bill. A Southerner proposed it, and the Republicans for once showed a cheerful disposition to "cotton" to the south.

Charleston has a colored female fortune teller who is pointing out thieves, and they are being arrested and stolen property recovered. She should visit Jacksonville and try her hand on designating assassins - Memphis.

Yes, by all means get her, and let her try her hand on "who got that letter" that needs clearing up.

President H. E. Plant's commission from Governor Blount to the Mikado of Japan is said to be a most gorgeous document covered with red and gold seals. If Col. Buck does not look out, even though United States minister, he may yet have to yield the chrysanthemum to Florida's commissioner at large.

There is considerable difference in the language of Consul General Lee and Mr. Calhoun in regard to the death of Ruiz in Cuba. The former gives his sentiments without reserve, and in a way to convince people that he is not afraid to tell the truth. Mr. Calhoun hedges and dodges.

The New York Journal says Mr. Wamsmaker claims that he is not laying aside his republicanism, but that the republican party is laying aside its regard for public sentiment. This is about the situation, and the main point to be made against Mr. Wamsmaker is that he has traveled over a procrastinating route in arriving at this decision concerning one of the republican party's old tricks.

Hon. W. H. Reynolds, Comptroller has sent out the following notice to Circuit Clerks: "You are hereby notified that all tax certificates of lands sold or certified to the State of Florida for unpaid taxes are now in the hands of the State Treasurer, and all applications to redeem or purchase same, and all inquiries in relation thereto, must be addressed to Hon. J. B. Whitfield, Treasurer of the State of Florida."

Commander Reisinger, the new commandant at the Pensacola navy yard, has determined to restore some of the former glory of the yard when its departments were all open, giving employment to hundreds of men. He has asked the navy department to restore the marine guard that was formerly kept at the yard, and in view of the fact that the new gunboats that will operate in the Gulf have been ordered to make their headquarters, he has also requested that some of the shops be reopened, so that repair work needed by these vessels may be done at the yard. When he was ensign Commander Reisinger was stationed there. At that time the yard was in full blast and he is desirous of seeing it so.

## How's This?

The statement made by Mr. C. A. Spreckels, of California, who is not, like his father, and brother, in the sugar trust, is being much talked about by Senators and Representatives, especially those who think that the trust ought to be hit, instead of helped, by Congress. Mr. Spreckels says that by the time the tariff bill becomes a law the sugar trust will have raw sugar enough on hand to save in custom duties as the present sugar schedule stands, some thing like \$15,000,000, and that it will not have to import any raw sugar for the first six months of the new tariff. He suggests that an easy way to make the trust pay what would be equivalent to the duty upon this sugar which it has imported ahead of the tariff would be to impose a revenue tax of about \$20 a ton on all sugars refined in the U.S. for six months from the date the new tariff goes into effect. That the adoption of this suggestion by Congress would be popular with the people is certain, but Congress has yet to take the first legislative step that is opposed by the sugar trust and the influences it can command.

## What Florida Risks.

The Railway Age, which some time ago asserted that the railroad commission law would have a bad effect upon railroad enterprises in the state, declines to match prophecies with certain other publications which have been predicting that railway extensions would go on under the new law the same as before. The Age, however, enumerates a list of railroad projects in the state which were in a fair way to being carried out when the new law was adopted, finds that the aggregate mileage of the projected lines was 1,700 miles, and now predicts that "if the present law remains upon the statute books, there is no wave of prosperity that can sweep over the country that will make the state of Florida boom hard enough to persuade capital to build one-fifth of that mileage in the next five years." Each hundred miles of new railroad built means an expenditure of something like \$3,000,000 for labor and supplies, hence it can readily be seen what there is to Florida involved in the matter.

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The Secretary of the Navy last week sent to the senate, in response to the resolution of inquiry for a statement concerning the cost and quantity of armor plate supplied to the government by the Carnegie and Bethlehem companies, statements showing that the Carnegie company has supplied 12,127 tons at prices ranging from \$515 to \$661, and that the Bethlehem company has supplied 13,302 tons within the same range of prices.

## Depression of Spirits

so common in summer-time, accompanied by loss of energy, lack of thought-power, means a deficient supply of nourishment. The vital force is lost. It isn't a question of muscle and sinew, but of resistance and endurance. At any age, but especially in youth, it involves the risk of lung disease. Loss of flesh and a cough are threatening signs.

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## Worthless Legislation.

The Supreme Court of the United States has decided that the International Commerce Commission has no power to prescribe railway rates. Of course that decision applies equally to the Railroad Commission recently created in this State, and renders it worthless, except to the three men appointed, to draw the salaries pertaining to the position. And just here it is proper to remark, we told you so.—Jasper News.

In commenting on the above the Floridian says:

The former Florida Railroad Commission cost less than an average of \$10,000 a year.

It is claimed that the new Commission will cost the people of Florida \$15,000 per annum.

The former Commission was beneficial to the people; the Commission of 1897 cannot possibly be an advantage to the people.

It will prove to be an expensive, yet worthless, luxury.

It already begins to dawn upon the public that the new Commission law is a needless piece of legislation.

In view of all the facts before us, we are constrained to inquire:

Is it not vicious legislation?

President McKinley is great on special commissions and ambassadorships. Mr. Calhoun went to Cuba to do the work already performed by Gen. Lee. Mr. Foster is a special envoy to look after the preservation of seals. Mr. Reid is to represent the United States at the jubilee of Queen Victoria, in spite of the fact that Ambassador Hay is there to do the agreeable, and Gen. Miles is studying continental warfare under a presidential commission.

Jamestown, Kansas, is controlled by the new women. They constitute the board of aldermen, and one of their number is mayor. It is now publicly charged that vice and immorality have largely increased since they assumed the government of the place. Saloons are open night and day, cock fights and other sports, as well as gambling, flourish as never before. Can it be that the new woman is a failure? Let us hope not, even if most of us do prefer the old woman.—Times Union.

It is said that Speaker Reed has been seen at the white house but once since inauguration day, and for asking any appointments it is said that he has made only one or two suggestions. It is noticeable, however, that all of his suggestions have been carried out by the President, and from the conduct of the lower house of congress there is every indication that there is a tacit understanding between the speaker and the President. There is little doubt that each is getting what he wants from the other.

Speaker Reed long ago, with characteristic pety, thanked God that the House of Representatives was not a deliberative body. His thankfulness must by this time have increased greatly. Any remaining traces of resemblance to a deliberative body have been quite eliminated from the organization and procedure of the House, whose only function now is to vote without discussion upon any measure that the speaker may decide to declare passed and to adjourn when he declares it adjourned.—Philadelphia Times.

## A Financial Breakdown

All intelligent observers of affairs in Cuba agree in saying that the demoralization of the currency has contributed largely to the state of misery in which the island finds itself. The currency is paper, now greatly depreciated and fluctuating in value from day to day. At length the evil has become intolerable, and a plan is said to have been adopted for funding the paper currency into interest-bearing bonds. It will then become a part of the permanent debt—a debt already larger than Spain, even with Cuba's resources at her disposal, will ever be able to pay. What better money will be put in the place of this poverty bonding currency is not stated. Cuba is certainly not in condition now to draw gold and silver to take its place, and some other credit device will therefore be hit upon, in all probability which in its turn will break down and cause further misery.

The financial position of Spain is in fact a hop-less one. The making of a forced loan in Cuba by issuing a great many millions of paper money which could not be redeemed perhaps seemed absolutely necessary to the government. But the loan only postponed an accumulated trouble for it. Its promises to pay are becoming each day less valuable less capable of performing the functions of money—and the government's prestige and power shrink with its credit.

If Spain could restore a reasonable degree of prosperity in Cuba, she might be able to hold the island. But she cannot do that, and must soon lose the support of those of its inhabitants who have hitherto been her strongest adherents. Much as they may desire the continuance of the Spanish connection, they will finally consent to peace at any price when they find that Spain cannot re-establish her authority, and that they are sinking deeper in poverty and barbarism every day.—Times Union.

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